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**For those interested  
in volunteering,  
please call:**

Nathan Graves  
Activity Coordinator  
Juvenile Detention Center  
314-552-2293  
ngravess@courts.mo.gov

Volunteer Office  
Voices For Children  
314-552-2246

### Mission Statement

It is the mission of the City of St. Louis Family Court – Juvenile Division to administer justice with compassion, dignity and respect and in a manner that promotes child protection, safe communities, and juvenile competency through holding juveniles accountable, repairing harm to victims, and strengthening families.



If you need assistance or an accommodation in order to participate in these court services, please contact:

**THE AMERICANS with  
DISABILITY COORDINATOR,  
JANICE KOCH**

at  
920 North Vandeventer Ave  
St. Louis, Missouri 63108  
or by telephone  
VOICE (314) 552-2118  
TDD (314) 531-6158

## Volunteer Opportunities



Family Court - Juvenile Division  
920 North Vandeventer Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63108

Phone: (314) 552-2000  
Fax: (314) 552-2260



Dedicated to Juvenile Justice

Updated: 06/02/2006

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## **Detention Center Programming**

While youth are detained in the Family Court – Juvenile Division’s Detention Center it is our goal to make good use of the time that youth are under our care. One of the ways we accomplish this goal is through programming for our young men and women. In our programming efforts we aim to introduce new concepts and ideas, develop skills and increase self-esteem and awareness among our youth. Our programming attempts to engage youth on all levels of their adolescent development and our programs generally fit into the categories of the arts, chaplaincy, education, physical fitness, positive support and special events.

An Activity Coordinator employed by the Family Court and a Chaplain provided by Episcopal City Mission provide the administrative team for developing, implementing and monitoring programs for youth. There are currently over 180 volunteers from the community who donate their time, energy or other services and goods to youth in Detention

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

The Detention Center has opportunities for community members who would like to volunteer their time helping detained youth. For those interested in volunteering, there is an application process that includes an arrest record check and a child abuse and neglect check.

The Juvenile Division is very appreciative of those in the community who have stepped forward to help our youth. To honor all of their work, the Family Court and Detention Center host the Volunteer and Contributor’s Reception the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of April each year in conjunction with National Volunteer Week.

## **Specific Programs in Need of Volunteers**

### **Volunteer Visitor Program**

In this program volunteers act as mentors and visit with detained youth who are not receiving visits from family members. In this 1 on 1 opportunity, volunteers are paired with a youth and continue their visits weekly until the youth is released.

### **Tutoring Program**

In this program volunteers help individual residents with their academics. Volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum of one hour per week and they work with the same youth until the youth is released. Residents are referred to the program by themselves, the school or center staff.

### **New Ideas and Areas of Need**

We are always looking for new and innovative ideas for programs for the betterment of the youth in the Detention Center. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the Activity Coordinator at 314-552-2293.

Some of the areas that we are currently looking for volunteers to lead programs for youth are:

- Parenting Skills
- Job Readiness and Skills
- Anger Management Counseling
- Life Skills and Personal Finance
- Gardening
- Holiday Special Events

The Activity Coordinator also publishes a “wish list” for those who would like to donate items to the Center. This list can be obtained by contacting the Activity Coordinator.

## **Voices for Children**

Voices for Children (formerly St. Louis City CASA) is an organization whose mission is to speak on behalf of abused and neglected children in the city of St. Louis.

Voices for Children Volunteer child Advocates change the lives of abused children by helping them move from foster care to safe permanent homes where they have a chance for a positive future – a chance to reach their full potential. Voices for Children Volunteer Child Advocates are community volunteers who dedicate their minds and hearts to improving life for children in City of St. Louis.

As sworn officers of the court they investigate and monitor the circumstances of these children’s lives, maintaining the child welfare system’s focus on the CHILD. As the eyes and ears of the Judge in the community, a Volunteer child Advocate provides to the court a full picture of a child’s life, and they recommend what they think is best for him or her. It is an awesome responsibility but it produces amazing results. The average length of time a child spends in foster care is 42 months. For those represented by a Voices for Children Volunteer Child Advocate the average has been cut to 18 months.

If you are interested in becoming a Voices For Children volunteer or for more information, please visit our website at:

**[www.voicesforchildrenstl.org](http://www.voicesforchildrenstl.org)**